

GUATEMALA:

Toriello Garrido, Guillermo
Castillo Arriola, Eduardo
Estrada de la Hoz, Julio
Gomez Padilla, Julio
Gonzalez Orellano, Carlos
Sierra Franco, Raul
Mendoza, Jose Luis

State Dept. declassification instructions on file

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TORIELLO Garrido, Guillermo

The appointment in July 1952 of Guillermo Toriello as Guatemala's Ambassador to the United States represented a vague attempt to improve relations between the two countries. He is a friend of President Arbenz, professes strong anticommunist sentiments, and is believed to be basically friendly toward the United States, despite certain public criticisms of U.S. policies. During his short term as Minister of Foreign Relations in President Arevalo's cabinet, he made a great show of cultivating friendly relations with the other Central American republics and with Great Britain, though he remained adamant in his intransigent attitude toward Latin American dictatorships and on the Belize question. Toriello's value as a conciliator may be tempered considerably by his headstrong, rather irresponsible character, and an almost childish air of boastfulness and love of the spectacular, as exemplified by his remarks at the time he was offered the post in Washington. He immediately caused it to be bruited about that he had been selected in order to "harmonize and improve relations, which are now terrible" and that he would not consider the appointment unless President Arbenz made a determined effort to rid his government of communists and to stifle current propaganda against the United States.

Ambassador Toriello is a brother of Jorge Toriello, the civilian member of the Revolutionary Junta which assumed control of the Guatemalan Government, pending elections, after the October 1944 revolt. Like his older brother he became identified with the anti-Ubico element some time before the President's overthrow and was, publicly at least, more active than Jorge. His sense of bravado led him into an open defiance of Ubico's chief of police which was both ludicrous and foolhardy, and was doubtless viewed in this light by the authorities, for only once was he apprehended, and then for a very short time. Under the succeeding short-lived Ponce regime he became a champion of the agitating students, assuming the stature of a hero in the eyes of the country's youth, and played an active part in the Organizing Committee for Civic Union (Comite Organizador de la Union Civica), a supposedly non-partisan organization set up to guarantee civil rights to agitators who were imprisoned by the Ponce authorities. He was jailed once for these activities, but a second attempt to arrest him led to a comic-strip race to the Mexican Embassy for asylum. Subsequently he went to Mexico. Three days after Ponce's overthrow, however, he returned to Guatemala, obtained appointment as official representative of the junta government to Mexico and on November 22, 1944 was designated ambassador to that country. The following April he was made Foreign Minister in Arevalo's cabinet, but resigned in December because he was not in accord with Arevalo's policies.

As Foreign Minister Toriello distinguished himself principally by his activities in favor of breaking relations with the Spanish Government and his espousal of the Belize question. He led his country's delegation to the United Nations Conference on International Organization at San Francisco. Previously, while in Mexico, he had attended the Chapultepec Conference. Later, he was a delegate to the Inter-American Congress for Democracy and Freedom at Habana in May 1950, and headed the Guatemala delegation to the seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 1952.

The Toriello family does not have an entirely enviable reputation in Guatemala. Guillermo is the youngest of six brothers, some of whom have rather easy consciences with a sort of elastic resilience in money matters. Their strained relations with Ubico grew out of a dispute among the brothers over a government contract. President Ubico forced an equitable distribution of the profits and order a close supervision over their financial activities, denying them access to large government contracts and unlimited commercial credit. Thus hampered in their activities, they developed a consuming hatred for Ubico and ardently affiliated themselves with the revolutionary elements, becoming most vociferous apologists of democratic ideals. Upon Ubico's overthrow, the Toriellos in revenge reputedly rifled the Ubico premises of portable articles and purloined Senora Ubico's jewels, which they later transmitted to the United States under the protection of diplomatic immunity and sold.

Guillermo was born in Guatemala City on November 11, 1911 and studied law in Guatemala and in Madrid. He has a quick mind and a wealth of native stubbornness and excelled in oratory and sports, becoming national tennis champion in 1933-34. He married into the prominent Castillo family of Guatemala and has four children. Cocksure and dominating and always anxious to impress his listener, he never loses an opportunity to use his fluent English and otherwise ingratiate himself with his U.S. associates. However, his petty pride and proneness to take offense quickly have been the cause of some embarrassment to United States customs and other officials. Also, he is not above inserting an innuendo of threat in order to obtain advantage in negotiations. While not a member of any particular party and professedly anticommunist, Toriello publicly upholds his country's extreme social measures.

Source: NIS 71, Chapter V, Section 59

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

September 12, 1953

Embassy Despatch No. 212, September 4, 1953

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SUBJECT: Guatemalan Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly.

In contrast with the partial list given "extra-officially" to the press on September 1, 1953 (my despatch No. 212 of September 4, 1953), the Guatemalan Delegation to the Eighth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, as announced officially by the Foreign Office on September 9, contained a number of extreme leftists who have publicly manifested their sympathy for Communist causes, while the moderate figures whose appointments had been forecast in local newspapers did not appear on the list. In view of the Guatemalan authorities' current campaign against the United States touched off by the Department's Aide Memoire of August 28, 1953 on the expropriation of United Fruit Company property here (my despatch No. 228, September 2, 1953 and previous), it is likely that the Guatemalan Delegation will be even less cooperative with the United States than in the past and may possibly take the offensive against "United States intervention in Guatemala's internal affairs".

According to the Foreign Office announcement published by press on September 10, the Delegation will be made up as follows:

Ambassador Guillermo TORIELLO, Chairman
 Sr. Eduardo CASTILLO Arriola, Vice-Chairman
 Sr. Julio ESTEADA de la Noz
 Sr. Julio GOMEZ Padilla
 Sr. Carlos GONZALEZ Orallana
 Sr. José Luis MENDOZA
 Sr. Raúl SIERRA Franco
 Sr. Mario RAMIREZ, Secretary
 Sr. Efraín RODRIGUEZ, Stenographer

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 Date 1/16/81 06/16/9

This is the second consecutive session of the General Assembly at which the Guatemalan Delegation has been headed by Ambassador Toriello. It will be recalled that during the last session he attracted some attention by his attack on United States press and wire services, which he described as

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being in the pay of big business, and more recently he held a press conference in Guatemala City in which he said the Department's Aide Memoire on the United Fruit Company case "contained concepts offensive in relations between sovereign states" and urged all Guatemalans "to unite as a single man in this difficult hour to protect our threatened national sovereignty, dignity and economic independence" (my telegram No. 52, September 4, 1953). While this emotional appeal may primarily reflect the thinking in official circles, Ambassador Toriello's personal feelings towards the United States Government are probably somewhat less than cordial at present.

Sr. Eduardo Castillo Arriola has served as Permanent Guatemalan Delegate to the United Nations since October, 1951 (despatch No. 351, October 4, 1951) and hence is presumably known to members of our Liaison group in the United Nations.

Sr. Julio Estrada de la Hoz, a member of the far leftist Partido Acción Revolucionaria (P-R), is a Deputy in Congress and is currently Chairman of the Finance Committee. His record of cooperation with Communist causes is so extensive that he is sometimes jokingly referred to as "Estrada de la Hoz y Martillo" (Estrada of the Sickle and Hammer). To mention but a few items, Sr. Estrada de la Hoz in June 1952 when serving as President of the Guatemalan Congress signed a declaration of solidarity with the Korean people on the occasion of the "second anniversary (June 25) of imperialist aggression against Korea" which said that the Koreans had been subjected to "the most infamous means of mass extermination, including bacteriological warfare" (despatch No. 14, July 3, 1952). In February, 1953 he was a member of the Presidium of the Communist-organized National Conference for the Defense of the Rights of Youth and in March he took a leading part in organizing manifestations of condolence on the occasion of Stalin's death. A few months before, he had attended the Continental Conference of Jurists in Rio de Janeiro (November-December, 1952), a meeting which is understood to have been Communist inspired.

Despite the high Government positions he has held, Sr. Estrada de la Hoz is now only 32 years old. He appears to be partially of African descent and is extremely sensitive on race questions. He is deceptively mild in personal conversations and leaves the impression of desiring to avoid airing differences of opinion. Although educated in Mexico, he is not known to have visited the United States before; his present assignment may thus serve to widen somewhat his present rather limited horizon.

Sr. Julio César Padilla, another member of the Delegation, is judge of the First Labor Court of Appeals, where his decisions have almost invariably favored labor especially in cases

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involving American companies operating in Guatemala. In January and again in February 1952 he signed declarations supporting the Communist-sponsored "Peace" campaign. In August of the same year he went to Geneva on an ILO scholarship to study labor law. He was formerly a member of the leftist nationalistic party Frente Popular Libertador (FPL), but it is not known whether he followed the bulk of FPL members into the Partido de la Revolución Guatemalteca (PRG) when the two groups merged in June 1952.

Sr. Carlos González Orellana is Chief of the Office of Information and Publicity of the Presidency, a propaganda office reporting directly to President Arbenz. In this capacity he has waged a vigorous campaign on behalf of the social and political objectives of his present administration and against American business interests in this country. He attended the Seventh Session of the General Assembly and hence is not completely new to United Nations procedures.

Sr. González Orellana has been labelled Communist but there is no confirmatory evidence for this allegation. It may be indicative that in October 1949 he was reportedly a judge in a "pro-peace" literary contest sponsored by the Alianza de la Juventud Democrática Guatemalteca (AJDG), a Communist front organization. During his service as Under Secretary of Education (1949-1953) he cooperated closely with the Communist-controlled teachers union STEG, but at the same time he was helpful to this Mission's Cultural Affairs Officer in our Exchange Program. He is strongly opposed to the Franco regime in Spain.

In manner Sr. González Orellana is mild and retiring; his speech is sometimes almost inaudible. Despite his present position as head of the President's propaganda office, he seems to have a deep interest in education and last April privately expressed a desire to get back into the educational field. He has been mentioned as a possible Minister of Education should the President desire to replace the present incumbent.

Sr. Raúl Sierra Franco, Director General of Statistics is a technician rather than a politician. He has generally cooperated with this Embassy's economic officers and has no record of pro-Communist activities. Of the same type is Sr. José Luis Mendoza, Chief of the Treaty Section of the Foreign Office and an old hand in United Nations affairs (despatch No. 212, September 4, 1951). No information is available regarding the political views of Sr. Ramírez and Rodríguez who, in any case appear to occupy subordinate positions on the delegation.

R. E. Schaefer

Walter E. Schaefer

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Division of Biographic InformationCASTILLO Arriola, Eduardo (Lic.)GUATEMALAPersonal data: Born in Guatemala, January 5, 1914.Career:

1945-1946 Deputy to Congress from Department of Huehuetenango.
 1946-1951 Member of National Electoral Board.
 1949 Member of Political Committee of Frente Popular Libertador.
 1950 Chairman of Board of Liquidation of War Matters.
 1951 Professor international law at Foreign Office Diplomatic-Consular Institute (from May until Institute's closure in June);
 Chief of Guatemalan delegation to Japanese Peace Conference, San Francisco;
 Delegate, UN General Assembly, sixth session, Paris, November.

Review of this document by CIA has determined that

- ☒ CIA has no objection to declass
☐ It contains information of CIA interest that must remain classified at TS S G
 Authority: HM 70-2

Remarks:

☐ It contains nothing of CIA interest
 Date 11/16/51 Reviewer 067169

A lawyer by profession and comparatively unknown politically, Lic. Eduardo Castillo Arriola is at present Chief of the Legal Section of the Guatemalan Foreign Ministry, although it is understood that he is to be appointed Guatemalan Permanent Delegate to the United Nations 5/ 6/ He has been a minor politician of the Frente Popular Libertador (FPL), one of the three left-wing revolutionary (Arévalo-Arbenz) pro-government parties, ever since the FPL's formation in 1945, but he himself is considered no more than a "moderate leftist" at present. Elected a member of the FPL Political Committee in 1949, Castillo aligned himself with the Committee's leftist pro-Galich faction when the FPL party leadership split wide open in the presidential pre-electoral period of mid-1950. 1/ 4/

Lic. Castillo served two terms in Congress as Deputy. At the time of his first election to the National Legislature in January 1945, a reliable Embassy contact, requested to comment on the new Deputies' general character and ability, appraised Castillo as "O.K.". 1/ 2/

It is believed that Castillo will not assert himself in the Assembly meetings, but will rather echo the stronger member of the Delegation, Enrique Muñoz Meany.

OLI:BI:FB Boyle:sc

October 23, 1951

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- 1/ D-1957, Guatemala, January 9, 1945 (Confidential).
 2/ D-2206, Guatemala, March 2, 1945 (Unrestricted).
 3/ D-179, Guatemala, April 5, 1949 (Restricted).
 4/ D-184, Guatemala, August 22, 1950 (Restricted).
 5/ T-68, August 22, 1951, Guatemala (Confidential).
 6/ D-374, Guatemala, October 10, 1951 (Confidential).

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ESTRADA de la Hoz, Julio

As president of the Congress of Guatemala, 32-year-old Julio Estrada de la Hoz would be next in line for the presidency of his country pending special elections if that office were prematurely vacated and the constitutional age stipulation of 35 years in the case of presidential candidates could be circumvented. His congressional term as a deputy in Guatemala's unicameral legislature, where he has been the leader of the intellectual, procommunist left, will expire on February 28, 1955.

Estrada de la Hoz is sometimes jokingly referred to as Estrada de la Hoz y Martillo (Estrada of the sickle and hammer). Although conclusive evidence of communist party affiliation on his part is lacking, he typifies the class of young intellectuals in his country who, with perhaps more enthusiasm than understanding, have embraced what they conceive to be a Marxian political and social approach to the problems of Guatemala. As joint editor of the semiofficial Diario de la Manana, he was known for his friendly treatment of extreme leftist elements and his great concern with "imperialism." He countenanced that news organ's strong anti-American bias and its falsified and distorted news presentation in favor of the Guatemalan Government. He has been extremely vocal in his bitter and scathing criticism of American-owned business enterprises operating in Guatemala. His record indicates that he was seated on the platform at the first public meeting of the Communist Party of Guatemala in June 1951. In June 1952, when various leftist organizations in Guatemala observed a week of solidarity with the "People's Republic of Korea," he was listed as one of 19 members of Congress who had signed a document expressing sympathy for "the heroic North Korean people" against whom "the most infamous means of mass extermination, including bacteriological warfare," had been used.

Estrada de la Hoz was educated in Guatemala and Mexico. He has a law degree, but does not practice his profession. He married a Guatemalan girl. In April 1949 he completed a year's assignment as press attache to the Guatemalan Embassy in Mexico City. He became subsecretary of Communications and Public Works in September 1950. An opportunist in local politics, Estrada de la Hoz transferred his allegiance from the Revolutionary Action Party to the Guatemalan Revolutionary Party when the latter was formed in June 1952 as the "single revolutionary party." He later sought readmission to PAR when the PRG was torn asunder by political rivalries.

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Source: NIS 71, Section 59, Chapter V